

Coins

A good book can be rather invaluable

By Roger Boye

"EVERYONE NEEDS a guardian angel and I hope you are mine," writes a woman from Union, Ill.

"I have 2,600 old coins. Where can I sell them for their fullest value? I feel in my heart they are worth much more than what I've been offered."

This inquiry is one of several hundred I have received while writing this column. Like many other readers, this woman doesn't know which coins are valuable, or what makes a coin valuable, distrusts coin dealers with a passion, and hopes her old

coins are super rarities worth thousands of dollars.

The best advice for anyone with similar open-ended questions is to purchase a good coin book, study it, and then study your coins.

One of the most popular books is R. S. Yeoman's "A Guide Book of U. S. Coins," also known as the Red Book. The 1975 [28th] edition sells for \$3 in most coin stores and book stores.

The book is full of illustrations and information, and lists average dealer selling retail prices for U. S. coins.

With this aid of books and periodicals, it is relatively easy to determine the ap-

proximate value of old coins.

Incidentally, the chances of having extremely rare coins in your drawer are probably less than the chances of winning in the Illinois State Lottery. Only one letter of the many hundred I have received listed coins that are worth several thousand dollars.

In addition to the many letters asking the value of coins or bills, several readers during the past year have asked how to order

U. S. proof and uncirculated sets. Order forms are available from the Bureau of the Mint, 55 Mint St., San Fran-

cisco, Cal. 94175.

The mint is taking orders for 1975 uncirculated sets thru April 30. The sets cost \$6 and contain 12 uncirculated coins—six coins each from the Denver and Philadelphia mints. The dollar, half dollar, and quarter coins will be copper-clad [contain no silver], and will feature the new Bicentennial designs.

If you have questions about coins and collecting, send them to me in care of Room 414, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Av., Chicago, Ill. 60611. But, please, do not send coins.